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The FREEMASON

* * * * * * * * AND THE FEZ.

A Masonic and Fraternal Monthly Magazine

VOLUME VI. MARCH, 1898. No. 3.

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We will publish a want ad for employment for any poor brother, not over forty words three months free. Other wants, fifteen words or over, 1 cent per word, each time; 6 months, 5 cents; 1 year, 9 cents.

FOR SALE—Imperial Council N. M. S., Proceedings 1884, 1887, and 1893.

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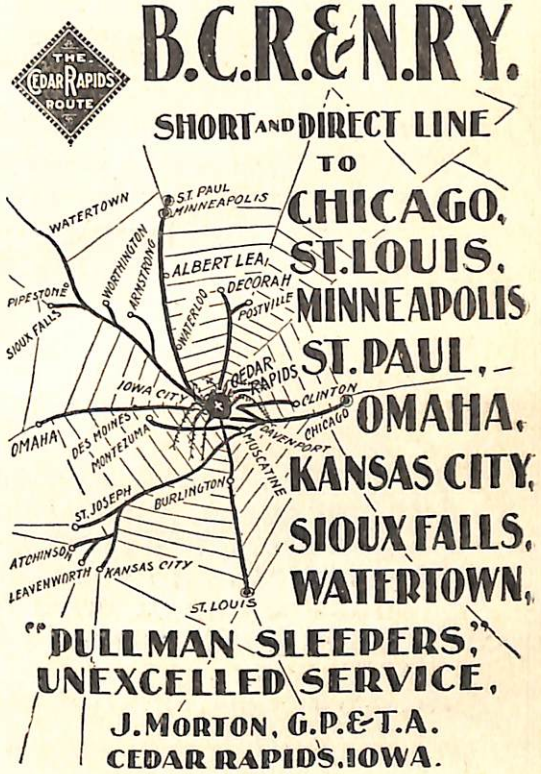
ON TO TEXAS—Do you want to join a company to go to Dallas, Texas, for the Imperial Council Meeting next June? Then write to the Recorder of El Kahir about it. Quick! Jno. W. Geiger, Recorder, Marion, Iowa,

SEEDS AND HERBS FOR SALE—R. T. Patterson, Eldon, Mo., will send you a choice package of both for 50 cents or $1.00 and he needs the money to keep his dear ones. Help a widow's son.



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Are now the CORRECT THING. We make them in many styles and at the right prices. Send for illustrated list.

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Members of Division "A" are entitled to

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$25 per week for total disability (52 weeks.)
Also benefits for loss of sight of one or both eyes, or loss of one or both hands or feet, and costs
Only $12 a year, payable $3 quarterly.

Members of Division "B" are entitled to

$5,000 in case of Accidental Death.
$25 per week for total disability (200 weeks.)
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Only $16 a year, payable $4 quarterly.

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J. A. DOVERMAN, Sec'y,
Masonic Temple, Des Moines, Iowa.

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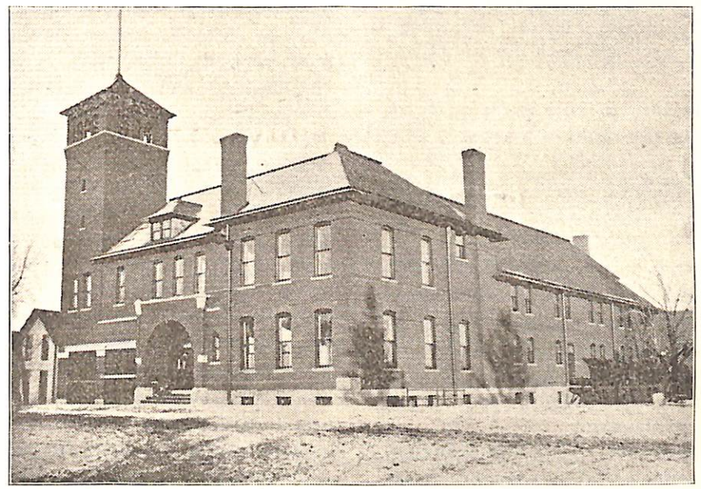
SAY:= Don't we want a live Masonic Journal in Iowa? If so, help us, by sending us all the HALF RATE subscriptions you can.

The FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

In the Interests of Freemasonry, the Concordant Orders of Iowa, and Fraternity Generally.

VOLUME VI. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, MARCH, 1898. NUMBER 3



THE FIREMEN'S AUDITORIUM—New Hampton, Iowa.

We have the privilege through the courtesy of Dr. Babcock of New Hampton, to present this month a half tone of the magnificent building in whieh the meeting of El-Kahir is to be held on the third of May. Talk about room! 'm, its there with a clear floor space of 78x96 feet, and galleries galore. It is beyond a doubt the finest place we have ever met in, Opera Houses not excepted. The only advice we have to give to the boys is to get there and see it all.

NOT SELFISH PRIDE.

The "wise and accomplished Freemason" has just cause to feel proud of his attainment to "the last and highest degree" of the "Ancient and honorable Institution." Living up to his numerous and weighty obligations he will not fail to be wiser and happier in his relations with all mankind. His faith being well founded, he will discover the richest treasures in the renewal of his hopes and the satisfaction of his honest desires; but he should never allow himself to imagine that all the good and true of earth have become votaries of the order, or that he may indulge the selfish pride of attainment that betokens narrowness rather than breadth. Too often the actions of those who should be sons of light betoken a darkened and selfish mind.

MERCY UNRESTRAINED.

Long ago, when this journal was yet young in months, we wrote that where the ends for which discipline was instituted were attained we believed that the erring brother should be restored. "All men err" and the erring deserve the attention of the Brotherhood that has proclaimed the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Let Mercy be unrestrained—it no less than Justice.

THE LODGES.

Dr. Parvin is reported well and soon to be home from Mexico.

A new Masonic Temple costing $75,000, has been dedicated at Rockford, Ill.

The new Temple in this city is nearing completion and will be opened some time in April.

If there is a place that is in luck or good judgment it's Ida Grove. They have a magnificent building with fine Masonic Quarters, covering 24x98 feet of space with all the modern conveniences, and only cost about $5,000. Brother Weiser has camped on deck and won't let a bit of "skimping" be done. We envy the boys lots of advantages.

Belmond has been at work in the quarries. We welcome to the ranks of Masonry, Bro. Albert Lary.

Clarion is pushing along, doing good work, true work, square work!

Through the generosity of Orange Lodge, No. 123, A. F. & A. M., the people of Guthrie Center were recently treated to a trip through Russia, by Captain S. Alberti, who was educated in the government schools of that country and served several years in the army.

After several years absence in America, becoming a citizen of this country, he returned to Russia in 1893, was arrested and exiled to Siberia, making his escape he returned to his adopted country.

The Captain's experience with the various classes of people in that country as related by himself was very entertaining and the Lodge has received many compliments for furnishing the public with this interesting entertainment.

RIVERSIDE LETTER.

RIVERSIDE, IA., March 4, '98.

Dear Brother Geiger—Victoria Lodge, No. 516, A. F. & A. M., met in regular session last evening. We had work in the Third Degree. After the candidate had been duly raised and had received the charge, Landlord Mentzer invited the Lodge down to the Valley House to take supper at his expense, and we were royally entertained as only Bro. John knows how. And I would just say in connection with this, Bro. Geiger, that our Lodge is in a very prosperous condition. We have two more candidates on the string and more to come, and we herewith extend to one and all the readers of your valuable journal, our heartfelt regards.

Fraternally yours,

E. K. ANNAS.

GRAND CUSTODIAN'S LETTER.

SHEFFIELD, IA., March 2, 1898.

Dear Brother Geiger:—Of course you must have missed my letter for last month (February) as I did not discover same in the Freemason and the Fez, so thought you did not receive it, which I know to be true, as I really forgot to write same in time for issue in February. I have been on the move as usual, since last I wrote you, have visited Mason City, Collins, Perry, Lake View, Lake City, Odebolt, LeMars, Marcus, Hazleton and Sheffield, and by particular request have promised to visit Mason City again today and tomorrow. Have on my list the following places yet to visit, viz: Lime Springs, North Liberty, Coon Rapids, Early, Primghar, Cromwell, Oelwein, Fort Madison and Sibley. Scattered considerably over the state, but am in hopes that I will be able to reach them all in due time. Being scattered so much it is quite troublesome to meet expenses in traveling with the amount which I receive from the lodges visited, at the present time am about $20.00 short. It all goes to show that the Grand Lodge should pay traveling expenses in full, then lodges that have never been visited could be brought in to attend schools and more obtain the benefit of instruction than now receive the same. In fact a little authority from the Grand Lodge might not come amiss to have at least some of the Officers of Lodges attend at central places specified.

My vocal organs have been a little out of tune on several occasions, but have thus far kept on the move. More anon.

Fraternally yours,

GEO. B. VANSAUN,
Visiting Custodian.

There are only three living Past Grand Masters in Georgia—James M. Mobley, Daniel Irwin and James P. Shannon. There are 411 lodges of Masons in Georgia and about 18,000 members.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

While at Ida Grove we met with the Companions in "Mark" Lodge and Chapter and witnessed creditable work. E. H. P. Pettit is a success and a stayer.

The Grand High Priest is reported as greatly improved in health.

The Deputy Grand High Priest bears his added responsibility well. "Cleave" always was a happy Companion.

Milton Chapter, No. 98, R. A. M. at Guthrie Center, is growing in numbers and the zeal exhibited by its members will no doubt land it in the first ranks of efficient work done in the state.

Two teams have completed the chapter work the past month, and "there are others" following along the toilsome route.

The Chapter has recently purchased a full set of robes and regalia for all officers, which gives a pleasing effect while at labor.

COMMANDERIES.

Iowa is not idle. Preparations are being made for Pittsburgh and will be announced in due time.

West Union is said to have a fine number of postulants about to receive Orders.

Sac City still leads the van in the amount and manner of the work done.

Illinois is out with an Easter Order, and their "Triennial Circular" is already at hand. Chicago is in Illinois and they are always "a coming."

Gerard Commandery, Knights Templar, was at home to a large number of its invited friends Tuesday night, Feb. 1, and entertained those fortunate enough to be its guests in a style of cordial hospitality for which this noble order is famous. The Sir Knights and their ladies, with those invited to its reception made up a company of probably one hundred and fifty Obliging committees received and cared for the visitors, and every want was seemingly anticipated. The asylum is splendidly adapted to entertain a large company, and its handsome rooms never looked more attractive than on Tuesday evening. There were all sorts of games for the entertainment of all. Correy's orchestra discoursed sweet music throughout the evening, and all who desired tripped the fantastic to their heart's content. Elegant refreshments served by caterer Ling, made the evening's pleasure complete. The Knights looked brave and handsome in their full dress uniforms, and again vindicated their reputation as peerless entertainers.—*Perry Advertiser.*

THE EASTERN STAR.

Davenport Chapter recently rendered "Female Masonry," at Kaaba Temple, to the delight of a large audience.

Since their installation the new officers at Cherokee have had their hands full. Up to Feb. 15 they had elected 11 to membership and had done the work perfectly. Good for them.

The organization of new Chapters goes right on as though it was a new thing. The Order in Iowa is flourishing,

The G. M. & G. P. visited Muscatine the first part of the year.

THE SCOTTISH RITE.

Maundy Thursday will be observed by the Knights Rose Croix of Des Moines, April 7th. We thank the Registrar for an invitation to attend. A convention of the Rite in this valley is contemplated for the later spring—last week in May.

Dr. Geo. E. Fullerton, Grand Commander of the Carmean body in Iowa is critically ill at Marion.

A Reunion is announced for Chicago for April 19–21, 1898. The ballustre bears the handsome features of Billy Johnston 32° and Bob Johnson 33°.

General John C. Smith, of Chicago, says the statement that all but three of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons is a fable. He further states that from a careful scarch he can find but five signers who were Freemasons or were known as such. They were John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston, Matthew Thornton and William Hooper. There may be more, he adds, but he can find no record or authority for the statement.—*Trestle Board.*

THE FREEMASON
AND THE FEZ.

Published Monthly

In the interest of Freemasonry in Iowa, and Fraternity generally.

JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, K T., 32°, EDITOR,
P. O. Drawer E, Marion, Iowa, for all business and exchanges.

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Drawer E, Marion, Iowa.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, MARCH, 1898.

GRAND GATHERINGS.

GRAND LODGES MEET.
Iowa, Council Bluffs, June 7, 1898.

A. R. DEWEY,.....Washington.....GRAND MASTER
T. S. Parvin.....Cedar Rapids.....Grand Secretary

CONVOCATIONS, R. A. M.
Iowa, Grand, Burlington, August 25th, 1898.
W. D. IRVINE....Sioux City.....GRAND HIGH PRIEST
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Secretary

CONCLAVES K. T.
Grand Encampment, Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 1898.
Iowa Grand, Templar Park, July —, 1898.
F. H. LORING,.....Waterloo.....GRAND COMMANDER
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Recorde

GRAND CHAPTERS O. E. S.
General Grand (U. S.,) 1898.
MRS. DELIA B. MEREDITH..Newton..GRAND MATRON
W. H. Norris.....Manchester.....Grand Patron
Mrs. Maria Jackson...Council Bluffs.....Grand Recorder

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.
Imperial Council, Dallas, Texas, June 14, 1898.
El-Kahir Temple, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
E. I. ALDERMAN ....Marion..... POTENTATE
John Westley Geiger.....Marion..... .....Recorder

Kaaba Temple, Davenport, Iowa.
GEO. F. WHITE.....Davenport.....POTENTATE
C. J. Brown.....Davenport.....Recorder

Tangier Temple, Omaha, Nebraska.
H. HARDY.....Omaha.....POTENTATE
S. R. Crickmore.....Box 523, Omaha.....Recorder

EDITORIAL NOTES

ANOTHER IN THE FIELD.

"Quarterly Bulletin" of the Iowa Masonic Library is another candidate for the patronage of the Masonic Public in Iowa and the regions beyond. We welcome it. We can't have too much of a good thing, and our space is too much cramped to do the Library justice. It may crowd us a little, for a while, but we are not made over the "canine in the manger" pattern, the more the better. Those who won't read after us, may use that, and so the number of intelligent Masons be enlarged. What is half a dollar—when you have it? What can you rate true Masonic instruction at? One number of the Quarterly is worth the price asked for four and you need it as well as our Journal.

OUR HOPES.

We have long contemplated turning more attention to the business of improving the contents and greatly enlarging this Magazine. We have not lost the desire nor given up hope of accomplishing the end we aim at yet. To those who have been with us for five years past and those who are with us now, we give thanks for their brotherly encouragement.

RALPH G. PHELPS.

The Noble Gentleman and splendid Mason has passed away in death, but his memory will live. He was one to whom in an hour of critical necessity his brethren could look with confidence for cool, calm leadership. He had great around him (and humble ones too) but they knew him to be a "Most Worshipful Master" in all ways. He is gone, and with him the pain, the sorrow and the weakness that is the lot of sick and disheartened Humanity.

JUST A WORD.

We have an impression that to do good to our brothers is a Masonic Virtue, and pleasing to the Grand Architect of the Universe. To encourage a despondent Mason is to set him above his want and to relieve his necessity is to do an act worthy of the loftiest. Well, here's a chance. We have called attention to it once before. Brother R. T. Patterson of Eldon, Mo., is a needy, despondent, sick brother, and yet he does not ask charity. He offers various herbs and seeds for sale, and a half or a dollar sent to him brings quick replies and the useful seeds and herbs. Try one dose of benevolence on him and if he writes letters to you such as we have seen you will think you are better off than you had any idea of after all. Give the brother a lift.

"The Craftsman" is a new Masonic Journal, hailing from Atlantic, Ga. The Craftsman Publishing Co., Edward P. Wood, Editor. $1 per year. A well gotten up Journal and a credit to the Craft in Georgia.

"The Texas Freemason": The Grand Master of the negro Grand Lodge of Texas has issued an edict expelling the "Royal" Grand Patron of the "Royal Grand Chapter O. E. S." of Texas from Masonry, but the "Royal Grand Matron" has issued her decree that the colored stars should pay no attention to said expulsion, but permit their "Royal Grand Patron" to shine in their firmament as if no eclipse had been attempted. The said "Royal Patron" is also editor of the American Signet, exponent of negro Masonry.

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

Hold onto the rope!

Say, those buttons are popular.

Are you going to Dallas, Tex., next June? Then write us about it, we've got plans.

How about the New Hampton trip? Don't miss it. That wonderful dervish from Mecca is to be there.

Noble Abe Levens of Dubuque, is greatly improved in health and we were glad to meet him lately. The Dubuque Nobles are all right up and coming. To New Hampton. Eh?

Noble Abner Groves of El-Kahir, is now with the "Colorado Mineral Palace Car Co." of Denver as Financial Manager.

The black Nobles have had their "Imperial Council" at Providence, R. I. They have 25 temples and 10,355 Nobles. This city has a Temple, "Mt. Lebanon." W. H. Thomas is Potentate and the immortal Noble Raspberry is Chief Rabban. Rale, fur de slide.

The supply of Notices coming to us since our last simply outnumbers us this time and is greater than for a year. The hottest notices are Aleppo and Syrian. The first is a combination of "cold deck" heavy "arsinal," while the latter only lacks the removal of the "Scottish Rite Cathedral" to make it an "altogether" show. Shades of immortal and Imperial "Billy" but there is a contrast between the "front" and "rear" views of the notice for Feb. 25.

Ismalia, of Buffalo, N. Y., puts out *the* Year Book of all we've seen yet. Thanks, Nobld Markham, for our copy.

Here's For New Hampton.

LAST CALL!

GET A MOVE ON YOU!!

The Notice will be out next and then the thing will be a go.

Doc. Babcock says: "Tell folks to keep their shirts on (!) in the matter of entertainment. We know all about it. Nobody will be *obliged* to stay up all night. After the hotels and all our houses are filled, we still have the calaboose, jail and freight cars." Oh, Doctah! you'll wish you'd never writ that so loud—but then that's Doc, he'd sleep in the freight car and give his bed to a weary Noble rather than miss the time we'll have. Whoa! Business first. We leave over the C., M. & St. P. 6:45 A. M. on May 3d, going via Jackson Junction. We'll have our own private coach and baggage—plenty of stogies but no budge. The company has finally consented to allow water on board, but it's hoped no Noble will abuse the privilege. We stay till we return, next day. Buy a round trip ticket 1½ and its safer. See? Candidates are at a premium. The new features *never seen before* are marvelous to behold.

FROM IMPERIAL HARRISON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb, 1, 1898.

Rev. John Westley Geiger, Drawer E. Marion, Iowa.

Illustrious and Dear Noble:

Inclosed please find a William, that I may continue to have the pleasure of reading the FREEMASON AND THE FEZ, and at the same time beg to express the hope that your health has been and may continue of the best.

Almas Temple met last night—one of the most enjoyable meetings ever held—good class of candidates, large attendance of Nobles, Visitors from Aleppo, Ararat, Hella, India, LuLu, Mecca, Medina, Oriental, Acca, El-Kahir and Korein Temples were present and all seemed to enjoy both the old and new features.

I remain yours in the faith,
HARRISON DINGMAN.

FRATERNITIES.

The editor of this journal is looking for information which will be used for the common good in this department. Address, Drawer E, Marion Iowa.

PAYING BACK EXCESSIVE ASSESSMENTS.

The board of chiefs of the Ancient Order of United Workmen met in annual session in Chicago recently. The object of the meeting is to adjust, pass on and pay the claims of the members who have paid in excess of the maximum assessment. The claims will amount to nearly $250,000. The available reserve at present is $1,000,000. The board is composed of the following: Supreme Master Robson of Texas, Supreme Foreman; Sessions of South Dakota, Supreme Secretary; Bickfort of. New Hampshire, Supreme Recorder; Sackett of Pennsylvania, Supreme Receiver; Acker of New York, Chairman of Committee on Laws; Kinsley of Montana and Chairman of Finance Committee Case of New York. The board will continue in session during this week.—*Omaha Bee.*

We've just received a magnanimous proposition to join the "Ministers' Casualty Union"—a new thing, and the top notch for Rev's. We filled it out, nit. We've a certificate among the Lay Brothers worth $5,000, so don't want to join the "Ministerses."

We see no virtue nor "any bowels and mercies" in the ridiculous permission of ignorant members of the Fraternities to misrepresent the *probable* expense of carrying a benefit certificate during one's natural expectation. It will react—then—but there will be no then for such.

We rather commend the reasonable calculation of the expense, and its prompt, equitable distribution upon all. We want safety and certainty and they are never cheap.

Of all the new things presented from the "Fraternal Policy" of the old line to the "Fraternal Insurance without the Lodge." We have yet to see any plan that will execute itself. In all there is a field for the energetic, wide-awake, conscientious worker. There are those who need the protection, and we need to bring the word to them. Let's quit fighting and go to work.

Miss Carrie Davis, the "ablest deputy" among ladies in the field, has gone to Ontario to open work for the Ladies of the Maccabees.

Sir Knight Terpany, Supreme Chaplain, (not a clergyman) of the K. O. T. M,, made a few addresses in Iowa in February.

We'd like to strengthen this department in three ways:

First, by getting fraternal subscribers.

Second, by more fraternal exchanges.

Third, by hearing more of the progress of Fraternity in Iowa and beyond.

OUR DEAD.

We will consider it a favor if our readers will send us the names and date of deaths among the Masonic Family,—Editor.

John Scott, Calmar, Ia.,		Feb. 10, 1898
Marks B. Priestley,	-	March 3, 1898
William A. Park,	- -	April 2, 1897
S. H. McCammon,	-	July 18, 1897
W. F. Crawford,	- -	July 23, 1897
G. C. VanGinkle,	-	Jan. 24, 1898

REDUCED FREIGHT RATES FOR SETTLERS.

In order to encourage the movement of settlers and land buyers from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and the eastern states to Western Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R'y Co. has very materially reduced its carload rates for emigrant movables, so that farmers who have purchased lands in Western Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota can take all of their belongings with them to their new homes at small expense, which inducement upon the part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R'y will no doubt be greatly appreciated by those who are thus benefited.

For further information apply to any agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R'y, or to J. H. Hiland, General Freight Agent, Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill.

The Masonic Collectors' Association is devoted principally to the collection of data throughout the United States and Canada from which to compile and publish a complete history of the Masonic fraternity on this continent, as well as the collection of relics, souvenirs, emblems, etc.

BOOK TABLE.

Masonic Directory and Calendar, Des Moines, Iowa, 1898. It covers every Masonic body in the city and gives a general Roster, as well as the list of Grand Officers, from R. M. J. Coleman 32°, Registrar.

Mecca Temple, N. Y.—General information, Divan, Potentate's address and reports of officers, with notice for Jan. 31, 1898, all gotten up in Doc Ellyson's usual style of neatness. Mecca is O. K.

We receive with thanks from Sir and Companion, Alf. Wingate, official Roster of the Grand Commandery and Grand Chapters of Iowa, and from W. Bro., N. R. Parvin, the same for the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

From Bro. Bun F. Price comes the Masonic Manual and Pocket Directory of Edicts of Grand Lodge, 1898. Thanks, B. F., its a little gem.

The World Almanac and Cyclopedia, 1898, came to our hands and is indeed, a great compilation. The World, New York.

The venerable and revered Chief of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois again puts us in debt to him for a copy of the (12th) Annual Report. Always good, never better.

Companion Wm. R. Bowen sends us the "Red Book" of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska for 1897, for which he has our thanks.

Masonic Directory of Masonic Bodies, Grundy Center, Iowa, by W. M. F. J. Bourne. Thanks.

From Bro. H. M. Myers comes a neat pamphlet with the Master's address and the reports of Minneapolis Lodge, No. 69, the largest in America. Present membership 863.

"Some Ladies of the New Administration" a handsomely illustrated article in the March *Midland Monthly*, Des Moines. The March installment of *The Midland's* "Grant" vividly describes the Battle of Belmont. The literary number is by Prof. James R. Hanna, "The Elements of a National Literature." In Social Economics, Hon J. K. Macomber vigorously points out the obstacles to Municipal Reform and the way to meet them. The much talked about President Dole, also Madame de Lome, wife of the ex-Minister of Spain, are in evidence. "A Rocky Mountain Adventure on Snow Shoes" and "Interior Views of New Orleans Homes" afford striking contrast in description. Perhaps no other picture in this number will attract as much attention as the portrait of young Lieutenant Merritt of Red Oak, Iowa, who went down with the Maine in Havana harbor.

SHORT ITEMS.

Thirteen chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star were instituted in Kansas last year.

At lodge trials in Michigan visitors may be present but must retire before the ballot is taken.

There are 15,000 Masons in Chicago in sixty-four lodges, and in Illinois 53,000 in 800 lodges.

In Texas there are twenty eight chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star, with a total membership of 3,329.

Canada has eighteen District Deputy Grand Masters. Their reports filled 160 pages of that Grand body for 1896.

The average of membership to each Masonic lodge is greatest in the District of Columbia—198. New York ranks fifth, with 126.

The Grand Lodge of Canada turned down the proposition that the business of constituent lodges be transacted in the third degree,

The clandestine Grand Lodge of Ohio has now twenty-seven chartered Lodges in operation. This Grand Lodge is an outgrowth of the Cerneau trouble.—*Tyler.*

There is in England a "lodge of research." Symbolically and practically every Mason should be a man of research, for in this world more of truth ever is to be discovered.

There are forty-one aged brethren in the Pennsylvania Home in Philadelphia. The expenses of the institution annually exceeds the permanent income by $3,000 to $5,000, which amount must be obtained by annual donations.

Whenever you hear a Mason bellowing about sectarian tests, watch him. He does not believe in anything; generally he is an agnostic, and got into Masonry by fraud.—*Orient.*

Sir John Gillies, Grand Commander of Knights Templars in Missouri, has issued an order requiring strict compliance with the law of the jurisdiction concerning Templar uniform.

Perhaps, if the universal brotherhood of man under the universal Fatherhood of God is regarded as a religion, or rather a combination of all religions, or still better, the *one* universal religion, then Frehmasonry may be called a religion,—*Pacific Mason.*

The Masonic and Eastern Star home of Illinois at Macon, for the benefit of aged and dependent widows of Master Masons and aged and dependent women members of the Order of the Eastern Star, was dedicated July 7 by the Grand Officers of the Order of Eastern Star.

Modern Masonry is becoming more and more mercenary as men become more imbued with the spirit of the age, and while a few Masons may be wealthy, the great majority of them are struggling to grasp something beyond their present reach, and consequently, have neither time nor inclination to assist one who has fallen out of the procession. They may assist a brother who is trying to keep in line, which is commendable, but after the wheel is broken at the cistern, the fountain of charity soon drieth up, and the Widow and Orphan are soon forgotten. But a change is coming. Good men have grasped the idea. They say let us build homes for those who have no home of their own. By united action we can support all our needy in comfort at a much less cost than one-half of them can be maintained by their Lodges, even when allowed to occasionally suffer for the ordinary comforts of respectable life. Why not look upon the whole thing as a matter of business? It would put us in line with the times and make it interesting. Let us build homes as a means of economizing; leaving charity to be developed by the results of our efforts to save a useless expenditure of money. It would be an odd way to cultivate so important a virtue, but none the less commendable on that account, as it would at the same time make smooth some of the rough places over which we might otherwise stumble. Let us cultivate charity in the field of selfishness, if we can find no better soil.—*Missouri Freemason.*

GUARD THE DOOR.

The acquisition of numbers is the controlling idea of members of the Order in many places. This leads to carelessness in scrutinizing the fitness of applicants, and names are added to the rolls that during the after-thought that comes we wish were erased. Remember this, in the hurry and scurry of your drag-net schemes to increase your lodge, that it is easier to write a name on the roster than it is to erase it. Remember, too, that the person you admit to membership in the lodge stands, after his admission, on the same level with every other member and is clothed with the same rights, privileges and immunities. The "outer door" of a lodge cannot be too closely guarded; there is where trouble, if trouble occurs, will first be found—there is where the lowering of the grade of membership may be prevented.—*Masonic Chronicle.*

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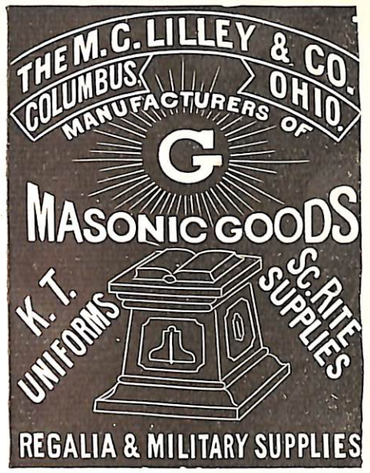

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